



September 1997

Volume XXVI Issue 9

# Jim's Journal

Volume VIII



Greetings,

As the Dayton Hamfest marks Spring, the Findlay Hamfest marks the autumn season. The Findlay Hamfest is one of those that make you feel good just to be there. Here's hoping you got the chance to enjoy it too.

For this month's column I have decided to highlight one of our club's repeaters. Of course my personal favorite is the Amateur Television Repeater. This repeater first went on the air in November of 1992. It has seen a lot of use and has been very reliable, especially when you consider that a lot of the components are Amateur grade, and not commercial reliability rated.

## Equipment List:

Receiver: P.C. Electronics Model VRC45b

Transmitter: P.C. Electronics Model RTX33-1

Video I.D.: Elktronics VDG-1

Controller: microcomputer Concepts Model VS-100

Amplifier: Eimac Model CV-2810

Antennas: Alford Slot horizontal

polarized, 6db. gain.

## Operating Characteristics:

Input Freq. (picture carrier) 439.25 MHz. a.m. modulation NTSC. 4.5 MHz audio sub carrier, 4uv. for a P3 picture.

Output: 910.25 MHz. 180 Watts PEP. A.m. modulated NTSC. format.

Control Channel 144.340 MHz. nbfm.

Antenna Height: approx. 165 ft. Located at the IPFW Campus in Ft. Wayne.

@ Lower vestigial sideband.

Receiving the signal from the repeater requires a TV. of course and some sort of a converter to

## Next Meeting:

Friday

September 19, 1997

7:30 PM

The Good Shepherd  
United Methodist  
Church.

receive the 910.25 MHz. signal. Most of the Hams use a Popular Mechanics or Rabbit type of converter available at some department stores or Radio shack. If you're within 5 miles of the repeater, a small yagi and some low loss cable to the converter will give you a usable picture. If you're much further, or you have trees or buildings in the path of the repeater then a larger antenna and a mast mounted pre-amp will be needed.

The cool part about seeing the repeater is that you can turn it on. The Club's call sign will be displayed by keying in \*88 on your two-meter transceiver with the frequency set to 144.340. This will bring the repeater up for one minute. Listening on 144.34 will also allow you to find out what is happening on a.t.v. Usually around 21:00 or later will find someone will be operating a.t.v. and talking on 2 meters. There are some neat functions available to users, such as the Sky Cam which is a camera mounted on the tower at IPFW that can be rotated, tilted, and zoomed, all by touch-tone commands from 144.34. To transmit a picture through the repeater requires a transmitter operating on 439.25 MHz. capable of passing ntsc. video in the a.m. mode. You should also have a video source to transmit your call sign. Most of the Hams use camcorders to generate video. The transmitter can be as little as one watt to a yagi antenna. Again the same rules apply as to your location and power and antenna size/ height. As a general rule a.t.v. will travel only 1/4 as far as nbfm. with the same operating parameters. We have found that most of the Hams in Ft. Wayne can use the repeater OK. Much further out, say 20 miles would require a fairly elaborate setup. This is due mainly to our antenna height at the repeater site. Ham television here in Ft. Wayne is a easy going activity, and as any one who has watched can tell you, it's just hard to tell what you'll see next. For more information please contact any of the people listed here: Cliff, N9MKB 483-7570. Walt, N9AVR 484-0042. Gene, W9MZH, 432-6175, Carl, N9NRO 485-4012, or myself, Jim K9OMA, 693-9211.

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Fort Wayne  
Radio Club  
Since 1920

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Todd Hargis, N9XRG Editor; 492-2138 Jim Pliett, K9OMA President; Bill Stockslager, KF2BF, Vice President; Al Burke, WB9SSE, Secretary 637-1989; Carl Rittenhouse, N9NRO, Treasurer 485-4012; Larry Burke, N9HVP, Communications Manager





## August Minutes

The August meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 15 August 1997. There were about 30 people present. Vice President Bill Stockslager hosted the meeting as President Jim Pliett was on a business trip (riding around in Abrams tanks down at Ft. Hood, Texas).

2. The July minutes were read, and there were no corrections.

3. Treasurer Carl Rittenhouse reported that as of 15 August 1997 the Club's General account held a balance of \$5346.08, the Hamfest account held a balance of \$500.00 and the Repeater account held a balance of \$2438.86.

4. Bill Stockslager noted that several committees were at work developing proposed updates to the club's by-laws, and updating the Club Handbook.

5. Carl Rittenhouse provided the latest Foxhunt scores. During the August Foxhunt, the prey were N9GK and KB9NRA. Despite their cleverly donning simulated Kellogg's Cornflakes boxes and hiding out in a corn field around Woodburn, they were quickly found, first by N9NRO, N9LOV and N9MKB, and then followed by N9OMA and KA9YYI, KB9's DOT and DOS, KB9LOF and KF9AW. Carl noted that the current Foxhunt leaders were N9MKB followed by N9AVR and K9OMA/KA9YYI.

6. Bill Stockslager reported on old business as follows: Pembroton Electronics had been approached

regarding the use of their parking lot for the FWRC Tailgate Hamfest. They declined. We will explore the use of ITT's parking lot for the Hamfest instead. The initiative to link one of our Repeaters to the Columbia City machine has been put on the back burner. Columbia City does not have the funds required to purchase the necessary antenna, nor do they have the funds necessary to hire a tower climber.

So the FWRC decided by vote of the members present to hold off on any further action until Columbia City decides what it is able and wants to do.

7. Bill Stockslager reported that the 146.76 machine is up and running. The 146.94 machine is down. We have acquired the new Controller and it is in the process of being programmed by Carl Rittenhouse. The new Transmitter/Receiver is at Walt Wood's for setup. However, Walt is in the hospital recovering from surgery, so it remains to be seen when we will be able to install the new Transmitter/Receiver hardware.

8. Ann Pliett conducted the 50/50 activities. We collected a total of \$32.00 so the spit was \$16.00 to the winner, and \$16.00 to the club. Bill Stockslager was the winner, and he donated his winnings to the club.

9. Following the meeting, we were provided a very informative briefing on the in's and out's of buying a PC from Tim Meyers of A+ Computers.

Respectively submitted,

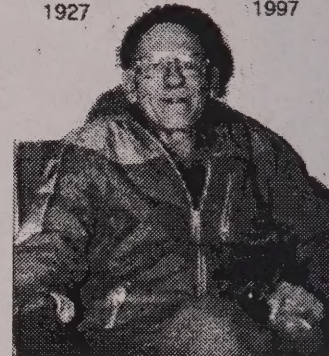
AL BURKE, WB9SSE



JACK FISHER K9YRS

1927

1997

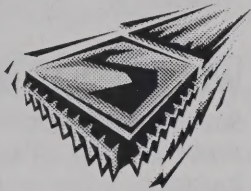


## Tribute to an old friend

The call sign was K9YRS, the phonetics were "Yokahama Radio Service". This was the first thing Jack told me when we first met. I'm talking about my old friend Jack Fisher. Anyone that ever knew Jack would tell you that Jack was his own man. If you didn't believe that you just needed to sit down with Jack and talk to him for fifteen minutes. I always thought of Jack as some sort of genius. This man could do or build anything with a few screws a bottle of glue, two rubber bands and a couple of batteries. And you know what, it worked! Jack was the one that engineered our first Sky Cam out of an aluminum mailbox. I never thought it would work, but it did, and to the amazement of all of the ATVers. Jack's ATV signal was always seen on late night ATV. I'll never forget the time when Jack asked 'How's my picture Cliff?' "I told him "I don't see a thing Jack". Jack replied, "I'm wearing a shirt with a white collar". We all burst out laughing when Jack realized he had his camera focused on a stuffed bird, which he had in the shack. Jack was an inventor. I can't even begin to tell you what this man could invent. One of my favorite inventions that Jack built was a remote control car fully equipped with a color camera. Jack brought the car over to my shack one day, and while we sat in front of



my television, he let me drive the car all over the neighborhood. I'll miss Jack's funny little laugh, and the aroma of cigar smoke that followed him. The 145.33 repeater with its remote base capabilities was another one of Jack's creations. Thanks again Jack for all of the good times and good memories. K9YRS de N9MKB



## INDIANA BULLETIN 68-97 CW WHO

A HOOSIER WAS RESPONSIBLE  
FOR CW TELEGRAPH!

September 4, 1997

You know if there ever was a beginning in early American history one would have to figure a Hoosier was involved one way or another. This Hoosier's name who played a major role in the continuance on development of the telegraph was none other than David Wallace. Yes, I know the skeptics may note the title of this Indiana Bulletin with much doubt on the sanity of the author.

Who was David Wallace? Well the general public probably is more familiar with one of David's famous sons, who was known as Lew Wallace and also the author of Ben-Hur. David Wallace, a graduate and instructor of the United States Military Academy eventually rejoined his family who had moved to Brookville, Indiana. There he began his study of law and then on to politics. In 1831 he was elected lieutenant governor, then in 1837 to 6<sup>th</sup> governor with the 1839 financial panic that plunged Indiana into insolvency. David Wallace was not finished in politics yet, he won election to Congress where he served on the House

Ways and Means Committee where his path and that of Samuel FB Morse's were about to cross.

Comes now Samuel FB Morse on the scene, and fellow hams the FB does not signify "Fine Business" but the obscure "Finley Breese" middle names. Samuel F. B. Morse was born April 27, 1791 in Charlestown, Massachusetts, not much more than a mile from where Ben Franklin entered this world. Morse was known earlier for his endeavors in art and was president of the National Academy of Design. He was fascinated about discussions concerning electricity and the electrical magnet while traveling on a six-week voyage. This experience brought on the idea of a telegraph and Morse was to continue searching for ways to develop this method of communication.

The year of 1839 saw Morse with the most difficult time of his life, his living depended upon his work as a professor of art and at one time he went 24 hours without food. On into 1841 Morse claimed he had not a cent in the world and even in 1842 claimed he only had 37 cents. He had previously pleaded for funds from Congress to test his invention and was now feeling ready to abandon the entire project indefinitely.

Now we can go back to the Hoosier and congressman David Wallace who was about to make history as a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. It seems that there had been much controversy over Congress appropriating \$30,000 to aid Morse's work on the telegraph. It then came down to the wire, when Wallace wound up casting the deciding vote to appropriate the funds! Wallace was defeated in the next election and castigated for allowing federal funds to support such a foolhardy venture such as Morse's invention. Wallace returned back to Indiana to practice law and was eventually vindicated for his support of the telegraph. It was rather ironic that during the Indianapolis celebrations to mark the successful laying of the

Atlantic Cable, Wallace gave the main address!

The jubilant Morse now pressed on to victory with a telegraph line from the Capitol, at Washington, to Mount Clare Depot, in Baltimore. The date of May 24, 1844 proved to be the climax of excitement with that now famous message that all hams should know by heart.

"What hath God wrought!"



## INARRL BULLETIN 65-97

### INDIANA HF NETS

August 22, 1997

How many hams do we have out there who recently upgraded and now own a high frequency radio transceiver? Now is the time to join in an area of interest and venture beyond the limits of your local repeater with another step. We have daily HF activity within our state and you are welcome to join in the net sessions. These opportunities can be found on the following frequencies and times indicated.

TIME FREQUENCY MODE NAME  
OF NET

LOCAL ZULU

8:00 1300 3.910 MHZ VOICE  
INDIANA WET NET

8:30 AM 1330 3.910 MHZ VOICE  
INDIANA TRAFFIC NET (ITN)

9:30 AM 1430 3.656 MHZ CODE  
INDIANA SECTION CW NET (QIN)



4:30 PM 2130 3.910 MHZ VOICE  
INDIANA TRAFFIC NET (ITN)

6:00 PM 2300 3.910 MHZ VOICE  
INDIANA TRAFFIC NET (ITN)

6:15 PM 2315 3.705 MHZ CODE  
INDIANA CODE NET (ICN)

7:00 PM 0000 3.656 MHZ CODE  
INDIANA SECTION CW NET (QIN)

The Indiana Wet Net collects precipitation/temperature input from local area hams which is then sent to the net control. These records are sent to Purdue and shared with others to provide a valuable source for agriculture and other weather records for the state of Indiana.

The Indiana Traffic and CW nets are involved with sending and receiving messages throughout the state. This is also a public service provided free of charge to all citizens involved.

The Indiana Code Net also handles traffic, but also provides training for new operators on net procedures.



## INARRL BULLETIN 66-97

### Kosciusko County Radio Clubs

August 22, 1997

The Warsaw tailgate hamfest has come and gone but now other changes have been implemented within this amateur radio community. The meeting site has now been changed. All Amateur Radio Club meetings are held at 320 N. Buffalo, the Red Cross Bldg, and



Warsaw, Indiana. Hoosier Lakes Radio Club (HLRC) meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm and the American Red Cross Amateur Radio Club (ARC-2) meetings are the third Saturday of each month at 2pm. All times EST. For information by radio, talk-in is usually available on 146.985- if not there, try 145.130-.

VE Testing is available, after the Saturday meetings. Appointment is not required but appreciated. Call Wes Schaefer for more information 219-566-2352.

Remember information cannot be published that is never received. So come on and tell us what activity is going on in your club or area. It is very easy to get information to me!

Packet =  
KA9QWC@KF9UG.#NIN.IN.USA.N  
OAM

EMAIL = don39@centralnet.net



## FORT WAYNE TIRE FIRE

### INARRL BULLETIN 69-97

September 6, 1997

Submitted by:

### WD9HII, BILL HALL

5027 TRISTAM CT  
FORT WAYNE, IN 46815  
PACKET

WD9HII@W9INX.NEIN.IN.USA  
NOAM

## FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Around 1:00 PM Saturday August 30, 1997 an alarm was sounded for a fire at a warehouse in the East central part of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Contents of the warehouse included approximately 600,000 old tires waiting removal for recycling. Within minutes there was a conflagration that sent a column of acrid smoke rolling over the neighborhood and eventually building into a column that reached above 8,000 feet. It was visible for miles around.

About 30 minutes into the fire, the adjacent six story headquarters building for the City Police Department had to be evacuated and fire officials expressed concern for nearby residential areas that included two apartment complexes housing elderly and low income families. Evacuation plans were set in motion through the Allen County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). As a result the Northeast Indiana American Red Cross Chapter consisting of Allen, Wells and Whitley Counties along with the Northeast Indiana Emergency Medical Response Team (MRT) were activated.

Responding to a call from the Red Cross, the local A. R. E. S. began setting up operations to provide communications support under the



direction of assistant EC N9NNT. By 3:00 PM ham operators had been dispatched to man the evacuation staging point, the ARC shelter being set up at the Memorial Coliseum and the ARC Chapter House. Red Cross radio was also manned by hams for communications with the two ARC Emergency Response Canteen Vehicles (ERV's) dispatched to the scene.

Two amateur radio operators are staff members of the MRT and provide any needed communications with that group. The MRT was staged at the Coliseum shelter for medical assistance to the evacuees.

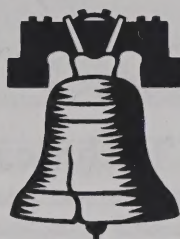
Another local ham operator, being a city police officer, provided liaison communication with that agency on the status of traffic restrictions at the fire scene and progress of the fire fighting efforts. This was valuable information in dispatching ARC personnel and equipment.

Of the 1,000 people forced to evacuate, approximately 150 sought shelter. The City Public Transportation Corp. provided 3 buses for those without personal transportation. The shelter opened Saturday afternoon and remained open until the evacuation order was lifted Monday noon. After lunch was provided, City buses returned the folks to their residences and the Red Cross began the process of dismantling the shelter. At about 2:30 PM communications were no longer needed and the ARES group suspended operations.

Being a holiday weekend, many of the local ARES members were out of town. Those remaining responded in true ham fashion however. Of the approximately 50 hours of continuous around the clock operation, hams contributed over 200 man-hours of public service communications. By call sign they included, N9NNT, WD9DYM, WD9GIU, WD9HIL, KB9EWN, N9KNJ, N9YBM, N9STQ, KA9QWC, N9SYE, KB9JHB, N9WOY, N9RYI, N9VAJ, KB9DOY, N9RNV, N9DGL

and N9WBO. The hams on the MRT were N9BAC and KB9IH.

Our apologies for any omissions. de WD9HII



## From ARRL Web Page

Excerpted from the ARRL Letter, February 14, 1997, Vol. 16, No 7.

Commercial satellite interests seeking access to bands below 1 GHz--including amateur allocations at 146 and 430 MHz--now have added 220 MHz to their wish list. For the first time, Little LEO (low-earth orbiting satellite) interests have proposed including 219-225 MHz in their list of desired allocations for the non-voice, non-geostationary (NVNG) mobile-satellite service (MSS). The move was contained in the industry's so-called flexible allocation proposal, delivered at the February 13, 1997, meeting of FCC Informal Working Group (IWG) 2A. Little LEO targets now include 146 to 148, 219 to 225 and 430 to 450 MHz. The ARRL and AMSAT were among those objecting to the concept, and the League is urging those who agree with their position to comment to the FCC by March 4. IWG-2A has been preparing draft proposals for the 1997 World Radio communication Conference (WRC-97). These will be reviewed during a March 5 meeting of the FCC's WRC-97

Industry Advisory Committee that is preparing draft proposals for consideration by the United States as it gets ready for WRC-97

The ARRL and AMSAT statement said the latest proposal affecting amateur allocations in the 219

to 225 MHz segment came at the last possible moment and without any technical support whatsoever. The League and AMSAT pointed out that the little LEO proponents have had more than a year to complete a technical study of the possibilities of sharing with the amateur services in the 144 to 148 MHz and 420 to 450 MHz bands. They have not demonstrated compatibility for sharing these amateur bands but over the evolution of their document have proposed various new ideas for use of these bands.

The little LEO flexible allocation strategy for WRC-97--submitted as IWG-2A/86 (Rev. 6)--is to propose broad allocations. The apparent theory is that most administrations would find reasons to oppose little LEO use of specific bands in the crowded spectrum below 1 GHz, but that a broad allocation would permit different implementations in different countries depending on local circumstances.

At the February 13 meeting, a coalition of spectrum interests--including land mobile, amateur, broadcasting, and military--opposed the flexible allocation concept on three grounds: that the concept is simply an invention to avoid performing technical sharing studies that would demonstrate the unfeasibility of sharing; that it is inconsistent with decades of ITU allocations practices; and that, if adopted, the concept would be counter to US interests. The coalition document is identified as IWG-2A/107.

The ARRL and AMSAT submitted a further statement of opposition, citing the absence of any technical studies that might support sharing with the amateur service or the amateur-satellite service and pointing out that the little LEOs have completely mischaracterized the nature of ITU Resolution 640 regarding the use of certain amateur bands in the



event of natural disasters. The ARRL/AMSAT paper, revised to reflect opposition to the late proposal to include 219-225 MHz, is identified as IWG-2A/108 (Rev. 1).

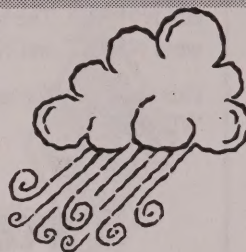
Amateurs also might find interesting the comments of the Department of Defense, identified as IWG-2A/101 (Rev. 1). These address the 430 to 450 MHz segment the Little LEOs seek to share.

Anyone wishing to register support for the ARRL/AMSAT submission should send a brief e-mail message to [wrc97@fcc.gov](mailto:wrc97@fcc.gov). The subject line should say Reference No. ISP-96-005 IWG-2A. A simple statement to this effect, I support the ARRL/AMSAT opposition to the NVNG MSS flexible allocation proposal, will be included in the public record and will help to drive home the point that there is broad-based opposition to poorly conceived sharing proposals. (Also see the FCC Public Notice: Procedures for Submitting Comments to the WRC-97 Advisory Committee.)

Please note! The proposals the League opposes are not FCC proposals, nor are they endorsed by any other branch of the government. They are industry proposals. The League's objective is to demonstrate there is broad citizen opposition to the industry proposals, so the government will not adopt them as US proposals. So, please don't flame the FCC if you comment.

Copies of the relevant IWG-2A documents, including the Little LEOs proposal and the ARRL/AMSAT response, are available for download.

Additional arguments or evidence also are welcome. Important! Comments should reach the FCC no later than March 4, 1997!



## Technical Archives

As most long-time hams know, the answer to common technical questions can usually be found by looking in the ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs, the ARRL Antenna Book, or one of the many other good Amateur Radio reference books. In fact, when you call or write ARRL TIS staff, you will sometimes be referred to one of these books or to a past magazine article. A few good books go a long way toward answering the vast majority of your questions as well as enhance your knowledge and enjoyment of this fascinating hobby.

Magazines are also a superb technical reference. An annual index of articles appears in the December issue of QST and other magazines. By searching these indexes, you can usually find an article or two (or six) about the topic you are interested in. Many QST indexes are also available on the World Wide Web at:

<ftp://oak.oakland.edu/pub/hamradio/arrl/infoserv/qst/>

More QST indexes and a search program are available at:

<ftp://oak.oakland.edu/pub/hamradio/arrl/bbs/programs/qstsearc.zip>

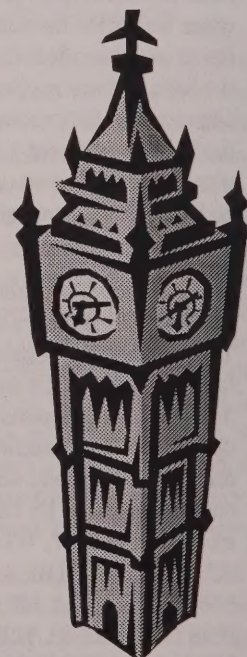
If you don't have the room in your own shack for a large collection of periodicals, try asking folks at a local ham club, flea market or on the local repeater to see if you can borrow the magazine you need. You may even find that several of these folks have

experience with the same kind of problem or question that you have!

The ARRL Field Organization is also a good resource for technical assistance! Each League section has a Technical Coordinator (TC) and/or one or more Technical Specialists (TS). These volunteers can offer "hands-on" help with local technical problems (such as RFI), and can provide personal advice about antennas, station grounding or other questions that are best answered in person. Your ARRL Section Manager (SM), listed on the first few pages of any recent QST, can refer you to your TC or local TS. Many SMs can accept email, too.

Before you contact HQ with a question about a magazine article, keep in mind that the author is the most familiar with the text and is usually the best person to contact, especially for project articles.

Write the author a friendly letter, asking your questions. (Always include an SASE!) Most authors will send you a prompt reply. If you offer feedback, try to be positive, even if you disagree with the author.





# For Sale

# Wanted

- One kidney (must be blood type A) Male (any old age) or Female (female age requirement 18-40. Must enclose picture) Grade A quality only (no drinkers or smokers and pulse required) for possible donor. Must be able to report to hospital on six-hour notice. Contact N9MKB at [cliffatv@aol.com](mailto:cliffatv@aol.com).

All ads will run on a month by month basis. Please advise me if you need your ad run more than one month or you wish to extend your ad another month.

Thanks and 73s,  
Todd Hargis N9XRG



## Attention

We are currently trying to compile a database of the e-mail addresses of members. This database will be used possibly in the future to distribute the Hamsplatter and thus lower the total operating costs of the club. Please send an e-mail message to [hargis@mail.org](mailto:hargis@mail.org) and put Hamsplatter in the subject line.

Thanks in advance for the help. We are trying to currently find ways to reduce costs so we can maintain the activities, which we currently enjoy.

73s,  
N9XRG

Do you have an interesting article or cartoon which you can contribute to the Hamsplatter? Do you have some spare equipment collecting dust that you might want to sell? If so please contact me, Todd Hargis N9XRG, at 492-2138 (leave detailed message and phone number if no answer) or I can also be reached via e-mail at "[hargis@mail.org](mailto:hargis@mail.org)".



**October Hamsplatter Deadline: *October 1, 1997***



Membership Data: (Give this form to the treasurer at any FWRC meeting or mail to the address below)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_ Class:   N     T     G     A     AE  

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Shall we list your address and phone number in the membership roster   Y     N  ?

Are you presently an ARRL member   Y     N  ?

---

Membership Term:      (Jan - Dec)      (Jul - Dec)

Family Membership:         \$21.00yr           \$10.50yr immediate family (list all callsigns)

Regular Membership:        \$15.00yr           \$7.50yr licensed member

Student Membership:        \$6.00yr           \$3.00yr full time student

Associate Membership:      \$15.00yr           \$7.50yr unlicensed member

Your Check Number \_\_\_\_\_ please pay by check. It's easier for both of us.

**Mail to:** The Fort Wayne Radio Club  
 PO Box 15127  
 Fort Wayne, IN 46885